

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for securing a fold of tissue in a medical procedure, the device comprising:

a first arm;

a second arm disposed substantially opposite to the first arm and having a first end fixedly connected to a first end of the first arm to define an opening to receive the fold of tissue, wherein the first and second arms are configured to extend in substantially the same direction as the fold of tissue and secure to the tissue fold with the arms remaining exterior to an outer surface of the tissue fold, and said opening being configured to allow tissue to extend from said connection beyond a second end of each of the first and second arms when the tissue is secured, the second ends of the first and second arms being located opposite the first ends of the first and second arms, wherein the second end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the second end of the second arm when the device is in a final tissue-fold-securing position, the second end of each of the first and second arms including a distalmost surface of the respective arm that is furthest from the first end of the respective arm,

wherein the second end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the second end of the second arm when the device is in an initial, normal position;

wherein the first and second arms are comprised of a bioabsorbable material such that the first and second arms are capable of disintegrating in a body; and

at least one of the first and second arms including an integral anchoring portion protruding from at least one of the first and second arms and configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the other of the first and second arms when the device is in the final tissue-fold-securing position,

wherein the other of the first and second arms does not include a structure for receiving the integral anchoring portion.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second arms are configured to frictionally engage the outer surface of the tissue fold.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second arms includes an additional anchoring portion including a fixation hole configured to receive an anchoring member.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further including a gripping tab configured to engage a medical device.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second arms form a substantially U-shaped configuration.

8 - 119. (Canceled)

120. (Currently Amended) A clip for treating Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease by being inserted through an esophagus and secured to a fold of tissue to connect fundus wall tissue to esophagus wall tissue, the clip comprising:

a first arm having a distal end and a proximal end;

a second arm having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal ends of both the first and second arms being fixedly connected, wherein the first and second arms are spaced from each other to define a gap therebetween to receive the fold of tissue such that one of the first and second arms is configured to be in contact with the esophagus wall tissue and the other of the first and second arms is configured to be in contact with the fundus wall tissue, wherein the first and second arms are sized to be inserted through an esophagus and the first and second arms are configured to extend in substantially the same direction as the fold of tissue, and the gap being configured to allow tissue to extend from said connection beyond the distal end of each of the first and second arms when the tissue is secured, and wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the clip is in a final tissue-fold-securing position, the distal end of each of the first and second arms including a distalmost surface of the respective arm that is furthest from the proximal end of the respective arm,

wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the device is in an initial, normal position;

wherein the first and second arms are comprised of a bioabsorbable material such that the first and second arms are capable of disintegrating in a body; and

an integral anchoring portion protruding from at least one of the first and second arms and configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the other of the first and second arms when the clip is in the final tissue-fold-securing position,

wherein the other of the first and second arms does not include a structure for receiving the integral anchoring portion.

121. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the anchoring portion is configured to engage the fold of tissue in the gap between the first and second arms to assist in securing the clip to the tissue fold.

122. (Canceled)

123. (Canceled)

124. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 121, wherein the anchoring portion includes at least a portion in the shape of a reverse angle barb.

125. (Canceled)

126. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 121, wherein the anchoring portion includes two projections, one projection located on each of the first and second arms.

127. (Currently Amended) The clip device of claim 126, wherein the two projections are located directly opposite to one another along the first and second arms.

128. (Canceled)

129. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, further including an additional anchoring portion including one of a pin, bolt, suture, staple, and rod configured to pierce the tissue fold.

130. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms includes a tapering portion curving away from the gap.

131. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, further including a gripping tab configured to engage a medical device used to position the clip.

132. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 131, wherein the gripping tab is located at the distal end of one of the first and second arms.

133. (Canceled)

134. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the first and second arms form a substantially U-shaped configuration.

135. (Currently Amended) A clip device for securing a fold of tissue in a medical procedure, the device comprising:

a first arm having a proximal end and a distal end;

a second arm having a proximal end and a distal end, disposed substantially opposite to the first arm and having the proximal end fixedly connected to the proximal end of the first arm to define a gap to receive the fold of tissue, wherein the first and second arms are configured to extend in substantially the same direction as the fold of tissue and secure to the tissue fold with the arms remaining exterior to an outer surface of the tissue fold, and the gap being configured to allow tissue to extend from said connection beyond the distal end of each of the first and second arms when the tissue is secured, and wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the clip device is in a final tissue-fold-securing position, the distal end of each of the first and second arms including a distalmost surface of the respective arm that is furthest from the proximal end of the respective arm,

wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the device is in an initial, normal position;

wherein the first and second arms are comprised of a bioabsorbable material such that the first and second arms are capable of disintegrating in a body; and an anchoring portion integral with one of the first and second arms and configured to engage the fold of tissue in the gap between the first and second arms to assist in securing the clip device to the tissue fold, the anchoring portion configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the other of the first and second arms when the clip device is in the final tissue-fold-securing position,

wherein the other of the first and second arms does not include a structure for receiving the anchoring portion.

136. (Canceled)

137. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the anchoring portion includes a projection.

138. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 137, wherein the projection includes at least a portion in the shape of a reverse angle barb.

139. (Canceled)

140. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the anchoring portion includes two projections, one projection located on each of the first and second arms.

141. (Canceled)

142. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, further including another anchoring portion including one of a pin, bolt, suture, staple, and rod configured to pierce the tissue fold.

143. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms includes a tapering portion curving away from the gap.

144. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, further including a gripping tab configured to engage a medical device used to position the clip device.

145. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 144, wherein the gripping tab is located at the distal end of one of the first and second arms.

146. (Canceled)

147. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the first and second arms form a substantially U-shaped configuration.

148. (Currently Amended) A clip for treating Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease by securing a fold of tissue to connect fundus wall tissue to esophagus wall tissue, the clip comprising:

a first arm having a distal end and a proximal end;

a second arm having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal ends of the first and second arms being fixedly connected, wherein the first and second arms are spaced from each other to define a gap therebetween to receive the fold of tissue such that one of the first and second arms is in contact with the esophagus wall tissue and the other of the first and second arms is in contact with the fundus wall tissue and the first and second arms are configured to extend in substantially the same direction as the fold of tissue, and the gap being configured to allow tissue to extend from said connection beyond the distal end of each of the first and second arms when the tissue is secured, and wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the clip is in a final tissue-fold-securing position, the distal end of each of the first and second arms including a distalmost surface of the respective arm that is furthest from the proximal end of the respective arm,

wherein the distal end of the first arm is configured to maintain a non-contacting relationship with the distal end of the second arm when the device is in an initial, normal position;

wherein the first and second arms are comprised of a bioabsorbable material such that the first and second arms are capable of disintegrating in a body; and

a projection extending only partially into the gap between the first and second arms when the clip is in the final tissue-fold-securing position, the projection being configured to engage at least one of the fundus wall tissue and the esophagus wall tissue to assist in inhibiting movement of the clip relative to the fold of tissue,

wherein the projection is located on one of the first and second arms and
wherein the other of the first and second arms does not include a structure for
receiving the projection.

149. (Canceled).

150. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the projection includes at least a portion in the shape of a barb.

151. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the projection is a first projection located on the first arm, and the clip device further includes a second projection located on the second arm.

152. (Currently Amended) The clip of claim 151, wherein the first and second projections are located directly opposite to one another along the first and second arms.

153. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms includes a tapering portion curving away from the gap.

154. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, further including a gripping tab configured to engage a medical device used to position the clip.

155. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 154, wherein the gripping tab is located at the distal end of one of the first and second arms.

156. (Canceled)

157. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the first and second arms form a substantially U-shaped configuration.

158-163. (Canceled)

164. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the device does not require removal.

165. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the clip does not require removal.

166. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the clip does not require removal.

167. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the clip does not require removal.

168-171. (Canceled)

172. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the anchoring portion includes at least a portion in the shape of a barb configured to penetrate a surface of the fold of tissue.

173. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second end of one of the first and second arms has a crook for providing a surface to push against to bring the arms closer together during insertion.

174. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the anchoring portion includes at least a portion in the shape of a barb configured to penetrate a surface of the fold of tissue.

175. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 120, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms has a crook for providing a surface to push against to bring the arms closer together during insertion.

176. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the anchoring portion includes at least a portion in the shape of a barb configured to penetrate a surface of the fold of tissue.

177. (Previously Presented) The clip device of claim 135, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms has a crook for providing a surface to push against to bring the arms closer together during insertion.

178. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the projection includes at least a portion in the shape of a barb configured to penetrate a surface of the fold of tissue.

179. (Previously Presented) The clip of claim 148, wherein the distal end of one of the first and second arms has a crook for providing a surface to push against to bring the arms closer together during insertion.

180. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the integral anchoring portion includes two projections, one projection located on each of the first and second arms, and

wherein the two projections are located directly opposite to one another along the first and second arms.

181. (New) The clip device of claim 140, wherein the two projections are located directly opposite to one another along the first and second arms.